

# LANAgM6 - SQA Unit Code H58P 04

## Monitor and manage grassland and forage grazing plans



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### Overview

This standard covers monitoring and managing grassland and forage crops for livestock production. Forage management is a key area in determining the profitability of livestock enterprises.

This standard covers a variety of forage systems in use on livestock farms especially dairy farms and includes producing, managing and monitoring forage plans. It also includes calculating requirements, evaluating possible crops and grass budgeting, including how to use information on grass covers.

This standard is designed for farmers, farm managers and farm advisers.

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### Performance criteria

- You must be able to:*
- P1 monitor and manage the forage plan for grazing and conserved forages matching chosen production system
  - P2 calculate forage requirements based on chosen production systems and available resources
  - P3 use grass budgeting techniques including measuring grass covers and take action as required
  - P4 monitor outcomes of plan and compare to relevant benchmarks
  - P5 communicate agreed policy to those who need to be informed in an appropriate method
  - P6 ensure working methods promote health and safety and are consistent with relevant legislation and codes of practice
  - P7 provide necessary system for record keeping and ensure that it is maintained
  - P8 seek specialist advice if required
  - P9 evaluate new technologies and assess likely benefits to forage plan

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### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 how to examine grass and forage crops and factors which affect forage production
- K2 potential yields, costs and nutritional benefits of a range of suitable forage crops
- K3 different production systems and their forage requirements
- K4 methods of calculating annual forage requirements matching production system requirements
- K5 the function of grass budgeting taking into account factors affecting grass availability, growth rates, quality and intakes during the grazing season
- K6 how to measure and interpret grass and forage crop cover throughout the growing season
- K7 methods of monitoring animal performance from conserved forages and grazed grass including relevant records and comparative data
- K8 suitability the site and surrounding environment for grazing
- K9 actions to take to improve the long and short-term animal performance from grazed grass/forage and conserved forages
- K10 health, safety, legislative requirements and codes of practice in relation to utilisation of forage crops
- K11 how to communicate policies to relevant key interest groups
- K12 the records necessary for compliance and monitoring outcomes
- K13 how to seek and evaluate appropriate specialist advice
- K14 how to source new technology and how to evaluate usefulness to the situation

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### Glossary

hazards  
poisonous plant  
boundaries/gates  
access to feed and water

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